



November 12, 2018

VIA ECFS

Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch,  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 16-56, ET Docket No. 14-165, MB Docket 15-146, RM-11745, GN Docket No. 12-268

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner O’Rielly, Commissioner Carr, and Commissioner Rosenworcel:

On November 2, forty-four (44) companies and organizations filed in support of Microsoft’s proposed rule changes to make TV White Spaces spectrum an even better tool for expanding rural broadband.<sup>1</sup> Alaska Communications supports Microsoft’s proposed changes. Alaska Communications appreciates the Commission’s efforts to date to bring broadband to rural communities, but there is still more to be done.

Alaska Communications plans to test TV White Spaces spectrum as an additional tool to reach the hardest-to-serve rural Americans, Alaska Communications believes that TV White Spaces spectrum can help serve rural consumers that are economically challenging to serve – especially in rural Alaska where the demand for spectrum available for TV is minimal or non-existent. With especially good propagation characteristics for reaching customers further away than is possible with other existing unlicensed bands, TV White Spaces spectrum can provide an important supplemental and cost-effective strategy for augmenting existing and planned deployments to reach even more rural Americans in some of the highest cost areas to provide broadband. By adopting Microsoft’s proposed changes, the Commission can provide an important additional tool for helping to close the digital divide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Steinberg', written over a horizontal line.

Leonard Steinberg

<sup>1</sup> Letter from connect Americas Now, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, ET Docket No. 16-56, ET Docket No. 14-165, MB Docket No. 15-146, RM-11745, GN Docket No. 12-268 (filed Nov. 2, 2018); *see also* Letter from Microsoft Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, ET Docket No. 16-56, ET Docket No. 14-165, MB Docket No. 15-146, RM-11745, GN Docket No. 12-268 (filed Oct. 2, 2018).